



IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of a polyurethane foams  
foam having improved long-term stability ~~by reacting, comprising:~~

reacting

a) ~~polyisocyanates~~ a polyisocyanate with

b) one or more compounds having at least two hydrogen atoms reactive with  
isocyanate groups, in the presence of one or more inhibitors in an amount of from  $[[01.]]$   
0.1% to 20% by weight, based on the weight of the polyurethane,

wherein the inhibitors are embedded in a substance which is inert under the conditions  
of the polyurethane preparation, and

wherein the inhibitor is at least one selected from the group consisting of an  $\alpha,\beta$ -  
unsaturated compound, a carboxylic acid, a carboxylic acid derivative, a ketone, an aldehyde,  
a lactone, a lactam, a cyclic ether, an ester, a sulfonic acid, a cyclic sulfonic ester, a sulfone, a  
salt of a metal of subgroup I, a salt of a metal of subgroup II, a salt of a metal of subgroup  
VIII, an organic cyclic compound, an inorganic acid, an organic acid, and an acid derivative  
which can liberate acids in a hydrolysis process.

Claim 2 (Original): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inhibitors are  
embedded in a wax.

Claim 3 (Original): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inert substances  
have a melting point such that they melt during the reaction which results in the polyurethane.

Claim 4 (Original): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inert substances have a heat of fusion of from 50 to 250 joules/gram.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the melting point of the inert substances is from 20 to 150°C.

Claim 6 (Original): A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the wax contains one or more polar groups.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~encapsulated~~ embedded inhibitors are present in particulate form.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the particles have a median particle diameter of from 20 to 800  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A polyurethane which can be prepared by a process as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 11 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is at least one selected from the group consisting of an  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated compound, a carboxylic acid, a ketone and an aldehyde.

Claim 12 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is at least one selected from the group consisting of a lactone, a lactam, a cyclic ester, a cyclic sulfonic ester, and a sulfone.

Claim 13 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is embedded in a polar polyolefin wax.

Claim 14 (New): The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the polar polyolefin wax is at least one selected from the group consisting of a polyethylene, a polypropylene, and a polybut-1-ene having a weight average molecular weight of from 500 to 20,000.

Claim 15 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inhibitors are present in an amount of from 0.5 to 10% by weight.

Claim 16 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is a polyurethane degradation inhibitor.

Claim 17 (New): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the wax is at least one of a natural wax, a chemically modified wax and a synthetic wax, and has a melting point of from 20 to 150°C.

Claim 18 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is embedded in a wax having a melting point of from 20 to 150°C and a heat of fusion of from 50 to 250 joules/gram; and the inhibitor is at least one selected from the group consisting of an  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated compound, a carboxylic acid, a carboxylic acid derivative, a ketone, an

aldehyde, a lactone, a lactam, a cyclic ether, a cyclic ester, a sulfonic acid, a cyclic sulfonic ester, a sulfone, an organic cyclic compound, an organic acid, and an acid derivative which can liberate acids in a hydrolysis process.